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Germany and the United States

The visit of Prince Henry to this country deserves consideration chiefly from its bearings upon the political relations of Germany to the United States. As a social event it was not without significance, at any rate to certain classes of our people. It was the affair of the season, in the cities which the Prince visited, to those whose life consists in banquets, receptions, costumes, and the like, and also to those who must have shows, excitement, new sensations and the satisfaction of their curiosity. From this point of view the visit was a "great success," and the memory of the Prince, who was in all respects a finished model of propriety, will never fade. Possibly also this social fraternizing may have some real effect in bringing the two nations nearer together, unless the excessive display and wasteful expenditure of money in the entertainments has produced among the laboring masses, as is altogether probable, a more than offsetting influence. Extravagant social "dining and wining," on no matter how great an international scale, can never do anything of permanent value toward the unity of the world.

The Prince himself was greatly pleased with the cordiality of his reception, so he told the German

people on his return. As a man he made a good impression here. The tribute paid to him, wherever he went, was doubtless in considerable measure due to his own personality,— to his simple manhood,— which made our people feel that after all he was like them, and one with them, that the Prince in him had not spoiled the common human nature. From this point of view his visit has left a decidedly favorable impression, and an increased regard for the Germans as a people. Manhood tells everywhere.

There was also, in the demonstrations, genuine respect and courtesy shown towards the government from which the Prince came. But politically there was nothing more. The Emperor of Germany will make a great mistake if he infers from the extraordinary festivities in honor of his brother that our people have forsaken their own democratic penates and are hankering after the gods of nobility and monarchy. A few sentimental Americans do this, but they have no standing here. What the demonstrations meant in this aspect of them was simple respect for the great German nation, in return for the respect shown our country by Emperor William in sending Prince Henry to see us. And respect—genuine respect—from one nation to another is a very great thing. There has been very little of it in the past. There is none too much of it now, especially among political leaders. Whenever these two nations, or any other nations, come to show respect habitually to each other, to think and speak and act respectfully at all times, they will be far on the road to perpetual peace. We believe that Prince Henry's visit to this country and his treatment while here will perceptibly increase the mutual respect of the two countries.

All sorts of motives have been attributed to Emperor William in sending his brother. Most of these had no existence, probably, except in the overheated brains of correspondents. It is not conceivable that the Emperor was so innocent as to believe that by such a visit of his brother he could secure a naval station in the West Indies, or break down the Monroe doctrine, or bring about an alliance between Germany and the United States as against England. Prince Henry himself is reported to have said that there were no secret motives behind his coming. That we prefer to believe until the contrary is made entirely clear. It is possible that William thought — we believe he did think — that such a friendly visit of his brother at the time of the completion and